

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1091
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA

UNCLAS NAIROBI 11427

FROM USDEL DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, UN, SENV
SUBJ: UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE

1. MORNING PLENARY SESSION ON FIFTH DAY (SEPT. 2) OF
UNCOD CONVENED WITH CHIEF OF USDEL JOSEPH PRESIDING.
TONE OF ALL PRESENTATIONS WAS BUSINESSLIKE, AND NOTABLE
FOR ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF POLEMICS.

2. BELGIAN REP (OUTERS) NOTED HIS COUNTRY WAS ALREADY
DOING MUCH, BOTH BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY, IN
ANTI-DESERTIFICATION FIELD, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN
CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL. OUTERS (WHO IS MINISTER OF
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE) STATED HE WOULD CONCLUDE
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BILATERAL PROJECT DURING VISIT FOR WATER SUPPLY PROJECT
IN SEMI-ARID REGION OF NORTHERN KENYA. HE ALSO PROMISED,
AS REPRESENTATIVE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, TO WORK FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN OF ACTION WHICH EMERGES FROM
CONFERENCE.

3. PAKISTAN REPRESENTATIVE ATTRIBUTED DESERTIFICATION

PRIMARILY TO POOR LAND USE PRACTICES, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS COMMON IN HIS COUNTRY.

4. TANZANIA DECLARED THAT ANTI-DESERTIFICATION MEASURES MUST BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. RELATIONG DESERTIFICATION TO UNJUST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, TANZANIAN REP SAID IT IS UP TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO MAKE UP FOR EXPLOITED RESOURCES.

5. USSR PRESENTATION REVIEWED ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOVIET SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN FIELD OF ANTI-DESERTIFICATION MEASURES, AND OFFERED TO SHARE ITS EXPERIENCE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THROUGH TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS. PLAN OF ACTION IS ON THE WHOLE ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS, BUT ONE DEFECT IS CONCENTRATION ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAILURE TO NOTE IMPORTANCE OF MINERAL RESOURCES OF DESERT. IN ONLY REFERENCE TO CHINESE ATTACK ON SUPERPOWERS EARLIER IN GENERAL DEBATE, SOVIET REP EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ALL GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS HAD SHOWN CONSTRUCTIVE TENDENCIES, WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE DELEGATION WHICH HABITUALLY INDULGES IN ANTI-DETENTE POLEMICS.

6. CANADA POINTED TO NEED FOR CLEAR DEFINITION OF DESERTIFICATION TO ENABLE CONFERENCE TO DECIDE ON FOLLOW-UP. CANADIANS PREFER AS BROAD A DEFINITION AS UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBLE, E.G. "DEGRADATION OF LAND RESOURCES" TO ENABLE EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND AND RELATE. SHORT-TERM (THROUGH 1984) AND LONG-TERM (THROUGH 2000) PLANS MAY WELL DIFFER, AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR FINANCING MUST RECOGNIZE THIS. CANADA WILL SUPPORT SMALL UNIT TO MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION, BUT LOCATION WOULD DEPEND ON NATURE OF PLAN OF ACTION.

7. DENMARK AND NETHERLANDS BOTH STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING, AND NETHERLANDS ALSO CALLED FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO BASIC NEEDS OF MOST DEPRIVED GROUPS. NETHERLANDS FELT UNEP AND ECB MOST APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-70 AGENCIES, BUT WILLING TO CONSIDER OTHER PROPOSALS. THEY CONSIDERED CONSORTIUM APPROACH TO FINANCING COULD BE EFFECTIVE.

8. OTHER DELEGATIONS WHICH ADDRESSED QUESTION OF FOLLOW-UP, (TUNISIA, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, CYPRUS), ALL ENDORSED "UNEP" SOLUTION.

9. MALI AND GHANA CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FUND TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION.

10. ANOTHER POLITICAL NOTE WAS CYPRIOT STATEMENT THAT, WHILE CYPRUS DID NOT SUFFER FROM DESERTIFICATION, IT DID SUFFER FROM THE EXPANSIONIST POLICIES OF ITS AGGRESSIVE NEIGHBOR.

11. CAPE VERDE DELEGATE REFERRED TO ASSISTANCE FROM U.S., FRANCE AND FRG IN COMBATting DESERTIFICATION IN HIS COUNTRY. GHANA REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON JOINT GHANA/USAID NORTHEAST GHANA SAVANNAH RESEARCH PROJECT.

12. GENERAL DEBATE NOW EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE ON SCHEDULE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 5.

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